

**NARRATIVE**

**OF THE**

**RED RIVER EXPEDITION**

**1870**

**BY**

*Amiel*  
**CAPT. S. BRUCE HARMAN**

**(Late Q. O. R. and 1st Ontario Rifles)**



**(Reprinted from The Toronto Mail and Empire)**

**TORONTO**

**1876**



FIELD MARSHAL R.F. HON. VISCOUNT WOLSELEY, K. P., G. C. B., G. C. M. G.,



'Twas 26 Years Ago



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# The Red River Expedition 1870

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*"Students of the strategic branch of military science rank the Red River Expedition as one of the most notable examples of an expeditionary force sent into a strange country far from its base of supplies. In this regard it is classed with the landing of Sir Ralph Abercrombie at Alexandria, the first Ashanti expedition, and General Roberts' march to Candahar. In several important respects it overshadows all expeditions in British military history. The line of communication in strategy, or, as it is commonly called, grand tactics, is always considered the most important feature in a military campaign. The Red River Expedition is unique in this regard, as a line of communication was established for hundreds of miles through an unknown and hostile country, and maintained in first-class condition throughout. The preparation made for this work and the manner in which it was carried out furnish a constant theme for the professors of tactics in the staff colleges of Europe. This is not generally known, but it is one of the reasons why Lord Wolseley takes such a high place as an organizer and strategist among great living captains, a reputation which he more fully established in the flank movement from the Red Sea on Arabi's lines at Tel-el-Kebir."*—TORONTO MAIL AND EMPIRE

Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley having recently been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army, it may be of interest at the present time to recall to mind the incidents of the Red River expedition in 1870, in which he took so prominent a part as its commander, and which was carried out from first to last with such signal success.

After the confederation of what had hitherto been known as the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and the Maritime Provinces had become an accomplished fact, and the Dominion of Canada constituted, negotiations were entered into between the Dominion and the honourable the Hudson Bay Company, with the object of acquiring the lands comprised in the North-West Territories, which terminated in an arrangement being arrived at for the transfer of the Territories to the Dominion for the sum of 300,000 pounds sterling, the transfer to take place on the 1st of December, 1869. The Hon. Wm. MacDougall, C.B., was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Territories, and was instructed to proceed to Fort Garry in September, and there to assist in the formal transfer, and "be ready to assume the government" as soon as the transfer was completed. These negotiations took place without in any way consulting the inhabitants of the Territories about to be transferred, result-

ing in dissatisfaction amongst a certain portion of the inhabitants, principally the French half-breeds, who formed what was designated a Provisional Government, electing John Bruce and Louis Riel, both French half-breeds, respectively president and secretary; but shortly afterwards Riel, who was really the moving spirit in the matter, became the president.

One of the first acts decided on by this so-called Government was to oppose the entry of the Hon. Mr. MacDougall into the Territories, and for this purpose an armed force was stationed at the Scratching river, about fifteen miles from Fort Garry, where a barricade was erected. Mr. MacDougall, who in the meantime had received no notification of what had transpired, arrived at the Hudson's Bay post at the boundary line, and on the 2nd of November an armed force from Fort Garry arrived there and notified Mr. MacDougall of the decision of the Provisional Government, and insisted on his at once leaving the Territories, which Mr. MacDougall had no other course open to him but to comply with.

A large proportion of the inhabitants who were loyal joined together to oppose the very extreme course which the Provisional Government had adopted. Of this party Major Boulton, late of her Majesty's 100th Regiment of Foot, and

one Thomas Scott, were the most prominent. They were captured by Riel on the 17th of February, court martialed, and ordered to be shot on the following day. Major Boulton was, however, subsequently released, but the sentence on Scott was carried out, and he was shot outside of the fort walls. The news of this cold-blooded murder produced the deepest indignation throughout the whole of Canada. At Toronto, and in other places, meetings were held at



LIEUT. S. BRUCE HARMAN, ONTARIO RIFLES  
Taken in 1870

which resolutions were passed calling on the Government to take immediate steps to put down these usurpers of authority, and punish the murderers of Scott, who had lost his life through his staunch loyalty to his Queen and country. The result of public opinion thus expressed was that the Government decided to send a military expedition to the country, composed of two militia regiments enrolled for the occasion, who were to act in conjunction with the regular military troops.

At the open-air public meeting held at Toronto in the Market square in front of the City Hall, which was presided over by the Mayor, Samuel B. Harman, ten thousand persons at least were present. Dr. Schultz, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Charles Mair, and Mr. Setter, delegates from Winnipeg, were introduced to the meeting, and graphically told how they had, at the urgent request of the loyal inhabitants of the Red River Settlement, undertaken a long and laborious

journey to lay before the people of Canada the state of affairs existing in the settlement, and asked for immediate assistance in protecting their lives and property. Never was more intensity of indignation manifested. It showed the deep horror that was felt by the public at this awful tragedy. Eloquent speeches were made by the Mayor, Hon. M. C. Cameron, W. H. Howland, Col. G. T. Denison, and others, after which strong resolutions were adopted, urging the Government to take prompt and energetic measures in suppressing the anarchy and rebellion and protecting the lives and property of all loyal subjects. The Queen's Own Rifles, returning from a march out, halted in the square, and their splendid band enlivened the proceedings with some patriotic airs.

The following is a copy of the general order issued on the occasion. It explains itself:—

#### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

Headquarters Ottawa, 12th May, 1870.  
General Orders (17)  
No. 1.

#### ACTIVE MILITIA.

The formation to date from 1st instant of two Battalions of Riflemen from existing corps of Active Militia for service in the "North-West" is hereby authorized to be styled, respectively, the First (or Ontario) Battalion of Riflemen and the Second (or Quebec) Battalion of Riflemen, and the appointments thereto are as follows, viz.:

1st (or Ontario) Battalion of Riflemen.

To be Lieutenant-Colonel:

Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Peters Jnr.  
vis.

To be Major:

Major Griffiths Walnewright.

To be Captains:

Major Thomas Scott.

Major Thomas Macklem.

Major William Macaulay Herchmer.

Captain William Smith.

Captain Alexander R. Macdonald.

Captain and Adjutant Henry Cooke.

Captain Daniel Hunter McMillan

To be Lieutenants:

Captain and Adjutant Donald A. MacDonald.

Captain David M. Walker.

Captain and Adjutant William N. Kennedy.

Captain Andrew McBride.

Captain and Adjutant William J. McMurry.

Captain Samuel Bruce Harman.

Lieutenant James Benson.

To be Ensigns:

Captain and Adjutant A. J. L. Peebles.

Lieutenant Stewart Mulvey.

Lieutenant Josiah Jones Bell.

Lieutenant Samuel Hamilton.

Lieutenant John Biggar.

Lieutenant William Hill Nash.  
 Ensign Hugh John Macdonald.  
 To be Paymaster :  
 Captain J. F. B. Morrice,  
 To be Adjutant with the rank of Captain :  
 Captain William James Baker Parsons.  
 To be Quartermaster :  
 Quartermaster Edward Armstrong.  
 To be Surgeon :  
 Surgeon Alfred Codd, M.D.  
 2nd (or Quebec) Battalion of Riflemen.  
 To be Lieutenant-Colonel :  
 Lieutenant-Colonel Louis Adolphe Casault.  
 To be Major :  
 Major Acheson G. Irvine.  
 To be Captains :  
 Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. A. L. de Bellefeuille.  
 Major Allan Macdonald.  
 Major Jacques Labranche.  
 Captain Samuel Macdonald.  
 Captain Jean Baptiste Amyot.  
 Captain John Fraser.  
 Captain William John Barrett.  
 To be Lieutenants :  
 Captain Josephus W. Vaughan.  
 Captain John Price Fletcher.  
 Captain Edward T. H. F. Patterson.  
 Captain Maurice E. B. Duchesnay.  
 Captain Henri Boutillier.  
 Captain Leonidas de Salaberry.  
 Lieutenant Oscar Prevost.



CAPT S BRUCE HARMAN

To be Ensigns :  
 Captain Ed. S. Bernard.  
 Captain John Allan.  
 Lieutenant George Simard.  
 Lieutenant Gabriel Louis Des George.

Brigade Alphonse de Montemach Henri D'Eschambault.  
 Ensign William Wilmount Ross.  
 Ensign Alphonse Tetu.  
 To be Paymaster :  
 Lieutenant C. Auguste Larue.  
 To be Adjutant with the rank of Captain :  
 Major F. D. Gagnier.  
 To be Quartermaster :  
 Riding Master F. Villiers.  
 To be Surgeon :  
 F. L. A. Neilson, Esq.

#### STAFF.

The following Staff appointments in connection with the Militia Corps for service in the North-West are hereby made, viz. :-

To be Assistant Brigade Major :  
 Major James F. McLeod.  
 To be Assistant Control Officer :  
 Captain A. Peebles.  
 To be Orderly Officer to the Officer in Command of Expeditionary Force :  
 Lieutenant Frederick Charles Denison.  
 In a Subsequent Gazette :-  
 Chaplain Ontario Battalion.  
 Reverend R. Stewart Patterson (Stratford).  
 Chaplain, Quebec Battalion.  
 Reverend Father Marie Joseph Royer (Ottawa).

Quarter-Master, Quebec Battalion.  
 Lieutenant Thomas Howard, vice Larue appointment, not confirmed.

The expeditionary force as finally constituted numbered about 1,300, and was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel (now Lord Wolseley), who was the Deputy Quarter-master-general in Canada. The force was composed of the First Battalion, 60th Royal Rifles, commanded by Col. Fielding. Strength, 350. Detachment of Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, 20 men each with a battery of four seven-pounder brass mountain guns, and a proportion of the army service and army hospital corps.

Two battalions of rifles, one from each province, raised for two years by voluntary enlistment. These two battalions were named respectively, the 1st or Ontario Rifles, 350 strong, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Samuel Peters Jarvis, D.A.G., Military District, No. 3, and the 2nd or Quebec Rifles, 350 strong, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Casault, D.A.G., Military District No. 7.

The work of organizing and equipping the force commenced early in May, 1876, and as the men arrived from their different places of enlistment before which they had to undergo a most rigid medical examination, under the supervision of the Inspector General of Hospitals, they were marched to the old "Crystal Palace," which was prepared for their accommodation and which afforded very suitable quarters. This building was





DEUX RIVIERE PORTAGE. From an original sketch.

situated immediately south of the Lunatic Asylum, and was the scene of the brilliant ball given to H.R.H., the Prince of Wales on his visit to Toronto in 1860. It was also occupied by the 13th Hussars while stationed in Toronto in 1860 as their permanent barracks. There they were told off into companies, and by the 24th, the Queen's birthday, they were inspected in heavy marching order

more than 90 pounds of baggage, to include bedding, cooking, and mess utensils, which we considered ample as we had to do our own portaging. Extraordinary field allowance for six months was issued to all officers. All officers had to provide themselves with a copy of the "Field Exercise," Queen's Regulations, and orders for the army.

Before the final departure at the "Cry-



THE ARRIVAL AT MATAWIN—THERMOMETER 92°. From a contemporary print.

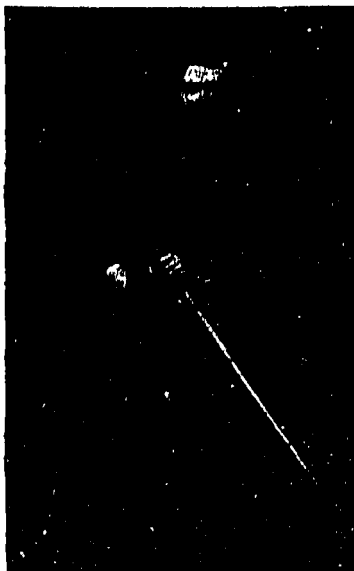
by Lieut.-Col. Fielding, commanding the 6th Rifles, and acquitted themselves most creditably; a finer body of men it was felt by all would be hard to find.

Besides the ordinary kilt, each officer and man received a bandage and cholera belt, also one pair of linen trousers, and a pair of beef boots for water work and tracking. Officers were not allowed

et al Palace," the battallions were drawn up in line and addressed by a deputation from the Upper Canada Bible Society, consisting of the Rev. John Gemley, the secretary of the society; the Rev. A. Sanson, one of its vice presidents; J. G. Hodgins, L.L.B., deputy superintendent of education, and John Young, the society's depository. Eloquent addresses

were delivered by the three first named gentlemen, after which the Rev. Mr. Fleming presented each officer and man with a handsomely bound Bible.

After the inspection, the force received their marching orders, and left by detachments for Collingwood via Northern Railway, to embark by the various transports engaged for this service, namely the Chicora, Arctic, Algoma, and others,



LIEUT. W. J. MCMURTRY, ONTARIO RIFLES  
From an 1870 photo.

amidst hand-shaking, farewells, and good wishes for the success of the brave fellows who had not for the first time so cheerfully responded to the call to arms. Nothing of much consequence occurred after leaving Collingwood until the arrival at Sault Ste. Marie, where a portage had to be made, the troops landing on the Canadian side and marching round, the boats going through the canal. This caused no little delay, but was unavoidable, as the canal runs through American waters, and the United States Government objected to an armed force going through.

At the Sault a garrison was formed consisting of four companies of the Ontario Rifles, under the command of Col. Boulton, R.A., the Deputy Assistant-General to the force, for the purpose of superintending the passage of the troops and the transport of the stores across the Portage. A rather amusing thing occurred here. In consequence of a rumour that the Fenians would make an attempt to cross over from the American side and make a raid upon our arms, stores,

etc., the sentries in addition to the orders issued, were cautioned to keep a sharp look out for any strangers who might land, etc., and report anything of a suspicious nature. It happened that as the Chicora touched at Garden River she took on a clergyman bound for Fort William, but in consequence of the steamer being delayed for orders, the rev. gentleman was not able to get any further on his journey, and consequently landed at the camp, and was amusing himself by sketching the surroundings. On the occasion in question, he was busily intent on sketching the tents, etc., when he was discovered by the sentry who became greatly alarmed that a spy from the dreaded Fenian camp was actually before him. Now was the golden opportunity to make a name for himself, and save the camp, so quick as thought he cornered this inoffensive hero of the pencil, gave an alarm which brought out nearly the entire camp, when the true state of affairs was discovered, much to the disgust of all concerned, the daring soldier in particular, who saw the much coveted promotion vanish before his eyes. The rev. gentleman soon went his way together with his sketch, which had created so much excitement, and which I learned afterwards made its appearance in the Canadian Illustrated News.

The work of embarkation over, Prince Arthur's Landing, named by Col. Wolseley, in honour of his Royal Highness then in Canada, was made in a few days, where the force was landed and marched to their respective camping grounds, the militia occupying the extreme left.

The Ontario Battalion was camped on the lake shore, about a quarter of a mile north of the landing. The situation was well chosen, and reached by a road constructed entirely by the Ontario men. The Quebec battalion were to the north of us, a small stream being the dividing line. After a few days the whole force had safely arrived and then came work, not in the sense of ordinary routine such as the men had been accustomed to when at home, but downright hard work, the principal part of which was the building of the long portage between Prince Arthur's Landing and Lake Shebandowan, distance some 48 miles, over which the boats and stores were to be carried before the expedition could finally advance on its perilous journey, and the stockade for the protection of stores, etc. To make matters worse the season upon which we had entered proved to be the worst experienced there for some time past. Thunder storms accompanied by prolonged rain were the order of the day, and it tried the ingenuity of all concerned to keep a dry skin. At the work had to go on. Time was precious. Rain

or no rain, fatigues were ordered all the same.

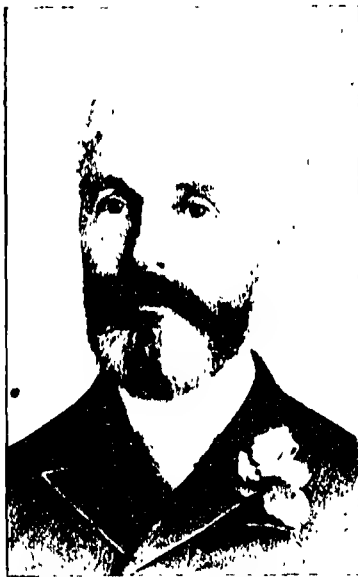
One of the events, and by no means a small one, was the arrival of the steamers carrying stores and the mail, the latter most welcome, the former, an undertaking of no small magnitude as they had to be landed by means of a scow built for that purpose, the water being too shallow to admit of the steamers landing at the wharf. During one of the numerous rain storms, the Algoma arrived, heavily laden with stores, boats, and horses. The several fatigues detailed for the duty of unloading and landing this precious cargo, were ordered out, and then commenced the work which will, I have no doubt, be long remembered by those engaged in the undertaking. It was blowing a perfect gale, the sea running high and breaking over the wharf, but notwithstanding this the steamer had to be unloaded. The scow was loaded with some 18 horses, barrels of pork, flour, sugar, etc., and when about half way between the steamer and wharf, it became quite unmanageable, the sea breaking over the scow, horses

## INSPECTION.

On the 30th June, the force was finally inspected by Lieut.-General, the Hon. James Lindsay, commanding H.M. forces in Canada, accompanied by Captain Gaseigne, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, lately appointed to the command of the militia of the Dominion. Officers of all ranks carrying short blades and 40 rounds of ball cartridge instead of swords which were dispensed with until the expedition should arrive at Fort Garry, thus materially increasing the strength of the force.

A most commendable measure adopted by Colonel Wolseley was that of practising the men in rowing. This was adopted on two grounds. First, to accustom the men in handling the oar, which was to be their daily mode of propulsion, and second, to afford them some recreation. The men entered into it with the greatest spirit, and the result was several races took place which proved most interesting, and showed what stuff they were made of. The first race was between the men of "E" and "G" Companies of the Ontario Battalion. The challenge was issued by the men of "G" company, hailing from Gananoque, to any company of the battalion, to row a mile in expedition boats, the crew to be composed of six men and coxswained by a captain. It was gallantly accepted by the men of "E" company, from Kingston, which I am proud to say was my company. The race was to be rowed in the evening, and as the time approached, the greatest excitement prevailed, and certain it is, that the shores of Thunder Bay never presented before or since so gay and animated an appearance. The ladies from Fort William graced the occasion by their presence, an honour I need hardly say, duly appreciated. Colonel Wolseley's gig was manned by officers of the 60th, and on the signal the crews got off well together. "E" led, and came in easy winners. This led to a challenge for \$20, from the Engineers who had previously defeated the 60th Rifles, and this was at once accepted by our men. The excitement now was higher than ever, volunteers against regulars, and to the delight, and perhaps surprise of all, the regulars had to give way, our fellows pulling a great race and winning by three boat lengths. There was great rejoicing amongst the Ontario contingent that night in camp, and congratulations showered upon the twice victorious.

An amusing incident occurred here. A recruit belonging to the Ontario Battalion, was carrying two pails of water up to the camp when he espied his Colonel approaching. He knew he had to salute his officer, but was puzzled how



MAJOR W. J. MCMURTRY

plunging, and barrels rolling about. Excitement ran high, and it was thought that the undertaking would prove disastrous, but good and strong hands, and herds were there, and a shout from those on shore heralded the news, that one of the most trying undertakings had resulted in success.

to do so. He first put down one of the pails, but not being satisfied, took it up again and put down the other, but this did not appear satisfactory. He had, however, to decide quickly what to do, as the Colonel was now close at hand, so he grabbed the two pails, and drawing himself to his full height, bellowed out, as the Colonel was passing:—"Eyes right; Eyes front," and then continued his way as proud as if he had commanded a squad.

#### THE SONG OF THE EXPEDITION.

Come, boys, cheer up! We'll have a song, in spite of our position,  
To help us in our labours on this glorious Expedition.  
We'll keep our spirits up, my boys, and not look sad or sober,  
Nor grumble at our hardships on our way to Manitoba.

But never mind, we'll struggle on, not heeding wind or weather,  
We are sure to get along, if we only pull together.

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.

At length we are fairly started, and I may safely say,  
That we shall see our journey's end, and at no distant day;  
We'll go ahead now, without fall, and never slay or tarry,  
Until we reach the promised land, in other words, Fort Garry.

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.

And when we reach Fort Garry, boys, and our work is done,  
We'll spend our time right merrily, you bet we'll have some fun;  
But when the winter's over, and we are all set free,  
We'll all go back to our homes, and won't we have a spree?

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.



TRACKING AND POLING UP THE KAMINISTQUIA RIVER

Chorus—Jolly boys! Jolly boys!  
Hurra for the boats and the roads, jolly boys!  
Some grumble loudly, and exclaim, "'Tis not what I expected,  
I never thought that vast stockade would have to be erected;  
'Twas only as a volunteer that I left my abode,  
I never thought of coming here to work upon the road."

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.

Say what you will, 'tis very plain that both these things were needed,  
Without the last I'm sure we'd never have succeeded;  
Had we trusted to our boats alone, to poling, rowing, towing,  
We never should have got as far as She-ban-do-wan.

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.

'Tis true the roads are rather rough, the rapids, too, are swift,  
And on these cursed portages the loads are hard to lift;

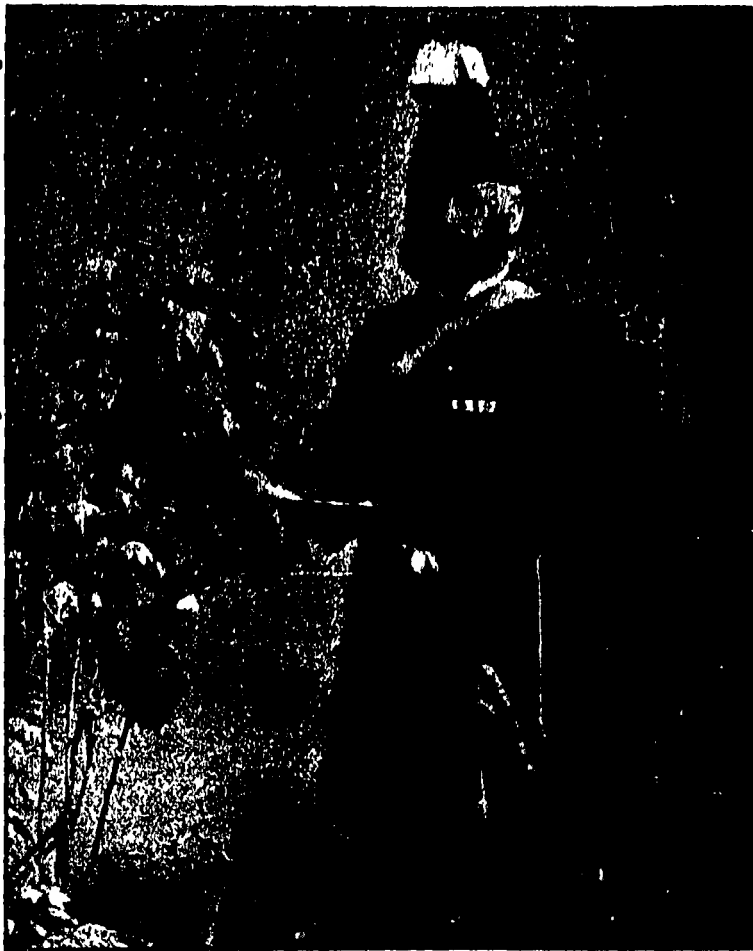
We'll do, as did the merry men, and let the bottle pass,  
And to each old friend that we meet we'll toss another glass;  
How sweet to see each well-known face with mirth and welcome beam.  
Our troubles and our hardships, then, will seem but as a dream.

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.

I've talked about our going home, but now it don't appear  
That we shall see our homes again in quite another year;  
If the girls of Manitoba are as kind as they are charming,  
The half of us will stop behind and settle down to farming.

Chorus—Jolly boys, etc.

And so the work went on, and the rain also. Stores and boats were being moved up the road, and everything appeared to be going on steadily and



COLONEL JARVIS  
Who commanded the Ontario Rifles in 1870

well, and it was thought that soon the order for the march would be issued, when news was received that in consequence of the prolonged rains bridges, culverts, and roads had been washed away, and before anything more could go forward extra working parties would have to be detailed and repairs made without delay. To say the least of it, this was a damper in more senses than one. Our departure seemed anything but near at hand. Nothing but work, work upon the roads. There was no little grumbling, as the disappointment was great, and with some cause, as the men would say :-

It was only as a volunteer that I left my abode ;  
I never thought of coming here to work upon a road.

But willing hearts were there, and they soon made up their minds that the work had to be done, and done it would be if it was in their power, and one would hear them singing as they toiled along: But never mind, we'll struggle on, not heeding wind or weather, For we're sure to get along if we only pull together.

Road fatigues were now the order of the day. We very soon learned the truth of General Lindsay's remark that a spade as much as a rifle is the weapon of a soldier. Everyone had to work, officer and man ; and as a party marched off to its day's labour, the officer in charge would be seen carrying a pick or spade, as either was suitable to his taste. They would march a little after daylight, some five miles up the road, taking their rations. Work all

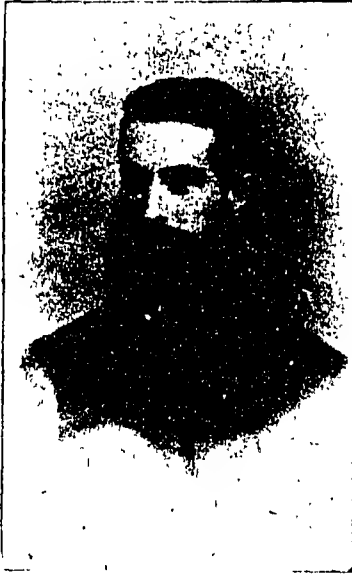
day, cutting down trees, corduroying the road, and repairing bridges and culverts, and marching back to camp at night, after what will be allowed was a good day's work.

It was about this time when the obstacles to our advance appeared insurmountable, that Col. Wolseley conceived the idea of making use of the Kaministiquia river to forward stores and boats while the repairs were going on on the road. The Kaministiquia, which takes its name from the Indian, signifying "river

column of spray from its seething depths. It is smaller than Niagara, but the difference in width, with the wild surroundings, make it appear far more grand and imposing.

One of the curious characters met with here was an Indian called Baptiste, whom the Roman Catholic priest had converted to Christianity. On one occasion he obtained a small keg of whiskey, and was ordered by his priest to give it up, and on his refusal to do so the priest said, "I insist upon it as your priest." "No," responded Baptiste, "not my priest: have turned Protestant." Shortly afterwards Baptiste was found eating a hearty meat dinner on Good Friday, and on being censured by his priest, and told that he was not a good Catholic, replied that he was. He said he was a good Catholic, and had a good Catholic heart, but was troubled with a Protestant stomach.

This route has always been considered as very dangerous, being a succession of waterfalls and rapids. The number of rapids that had to be overcome before reaching the Kakabeka Falls, a distance of thirty miles, were fourteen. So dangerous and difficult was this route considered that Col. Wolseley was strongly advised not to attempt it, as from the number of lives said to be lost in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company in past days over this route the risk of losing stores, boats, and valuable lives, was a thing that few men would have courted, but the gallant Colonel knew what he was about. The route was adopted, and successfully too. Hard work it was, and long to be remembered. To make matters worse, the weather was terrible. It poured continuously; the men were never dry. They worked like horses. Now tracking the boats up against the heavy rapids, up to their waists in water; now portaging the boats and their contents, pork, flour, etc., over the steep and rugged rocks, it was a sight not to be forgotten. Few of those who slept comfortably in their beds at the homes where these brave fellows came from had the smallest idea of the hard work they were undergoing. And so the work went on. Stores were once more forwarded up the road, camps established at various points—Brown's Landing, Calder's Landing, The Dam Site, Kaministiquia bridge, and Matawin bridge, where the force was actively employed in pushing forward the stores from point to point. Some of the hardest work was done between Young's Landing and the "Dam Site," a distance of about ten miles by land. Stores were taken up in the boats against the current, most of the way tracked or poled. The manner in which the men worked was wonderful. It was



ENSIGN J. JONES BELL, ONTARIO BATTALION  
From an 1870 photo.

of many windings," "many mouthed stream," distant from Prince Arthur's Landing about four miles, is a deep and broad stream, about 200 yards wide, and continues so up to the "Kakabeka Falls," which are some thirty miles from the mouth of the river, which empties into Thunder Bay. On the north bank of the river is situated Fort William, a trading post of the Hudson Bay Company, and in charge of Mr. McIntyre, a factor of the company. Two miles above the fort is the mission of the Immaculate Conception, with its church and school-house. The "Kakabeka Falls" are said to be equal in grandeur to those of Niagara, and are some 160 feet in height. Its name, "Kakabeka," signifies the straight leap. One can well imagine the beauty and grandeur of the scene as this mighty and broad cataract comes thundering down upon the rocks below. It is divided, like the Niagara, into two parts, and like its sister, throws up a dense

on this route that they came in direct contact with the 60th Rifle, and rather astonished the old soldiers at the manner in which they took the water. On approaching a rapid the order was given to take the line. Out the men would jump into the water, up to their waists, the guides remaining in the boat, that is the bow-man, who has the post of honour, who kept the boat clear of the rocks with his pole, and the man at the stern. The conversation kept up between these two was most amusing; not at all instructive, as it was mostly in their native tongue, that is, Indian. Now the men had to slacken up, then the next moment haul tight again, and so on, the meantime the water rushing past and against the boat like mad, the guides gesticulating with hands and poles, all of which made the scene one of great excitement. The way the men gave and took and fought the rapid was what astonished their old comrades in arms, who christened them the "water dogs." There go the "dogs," you would hear them say, and they did so, I can tell you. Strange to say, few accidents occurred, and I think the loss of only two boats, one with its com-



CAPT. J. JONES ELL

plete load. To show the rapidity with which the water ran on this route, it took some thirteen hours to work up to the Dam Site, the boats coming down light, with a couple of men and the guides, in about one hour, the men marching back by the road. It was at this post that I first saw Cols. Otter and

Gillmore, of the Queen's Own, who had come up from Toronto to see the work. There were other things than working on the roads and tracking that the men had to contend with, as there were mosquitoes, black flies, and sand flies. These were awful. The force had been supplied with mosquito nets, which were made of green gauze, drawn over a round hoop of cane. These were worn over the head, tied on top and under the chin; and so long as they were worn they proved a very fair protection; but the heat was almost intolerable, and one was glad to get them off and get a whiff of fresh air. Occasionally a mosquito or two accompanied by some friendly black flies would manage to drop in under the net, and make themselves sociable. It was then you would see some fun. Picture a man with a net, as I have described, tied on with no little care, discovering that he is not quite alone, when he thought he was; in fact had visitors whom he had no small aversion to, prancing about like a circus horse, and all the time tearing away at that confounded net, which would not come off because he wanted it to, with his face purple and his enemies singing away as bright and jolly as if they had been invited in. Yes, there was some fun in this, not for the man though. But there is an end to everything. The day's work is over and the men sit around their camp fires, some drying their clothes, others smoking and singing some of the old songs, such as "Tenting on the old camp ground," forgetful of their wetting and bruises and hard knocks of the day. At the Matawin great activity prevailed. For the past week or ten days the weather had been fine, but it had been too good to last; the prevailing remark was, "If we have no more rain we shall push through to Shebandowan. Some of the weather prophets, and there are always a few of these wiseacres wherever you may go, asserted that the bad weather was over. "Did not I tell you so?" was the favourite expression. "We shall have no more rain for some time." But unfortunately they talked too fast. The rain did come, and right hard too. More bridges and culverts were carried away, which meant more road fatigues, as the land transports were all stopped. Col. Wolseley, with his personal staff, including Lieutenant Denison, of the Body Guard, made this their headquarters for some time, going back and forward on the road inspecting the work. A rather amusing incident occurred at this post. A party had been sent out to repair the road under two subalterns. This was hard and dirty work, as the mud was very deep, and the trees had to be carried for some





THE LATE COL. FRED DENISON, C. M. G.

distance to the road, where they were laid alongside of one another, and then covered with earth; this is known as a "corduroy" road. Well, one of the subalterns did not feel quite up to this labour, and decided to give it a wide berth, and as he was quietly enjoying his ease and a pipe, he was aroused from his reverie by hearing someone remark, "Here comes the Colonel." Now to be caught napping was a thing that never entered his head, so to get hold of his spade and commence business was the work of a second. No one of the party showed so much activity and zeal as this young subaltern as the Colonel rode up, but his quick eye took in at a glance the state of affairs. He had thrown up a pile of earth at the side of the road, and not on top of the



ENSIGN HUGH J. MACDONALD, ONTARIO RIFLES  
From photo taken in 1870.

skids, as he should have done. In his haste to appear all right, he had given himself away. What a laugh there was! You can rely upon it he never did it again. The mosquitoes were very troublesome here, which was very trying indeed on the men. After working hard all day they found it hard not to get good rest at night. These pests surrounded the tents in thick clouds. The oil issued to the force, which was a preparation of creosote and pennyroyal, proved a failure, as it evaporated too quickly, and one had to be continually applying it to reap any benefit, which process took up no end of time, and one did not wish to sit up all night anointing

himself. At times things were pretty lively (there is one thing certain, the mosquitoes were); the roar of the waterfall, the hum of the flies, and the strong language of the occupants of the tents broke the monotony of the still night. This kind of thing could not be endured forever, so a plan was hit upon to rectify it, and it worked admirably. It was this: A smudge, composed of damp grass and leaves, was lit in the tent, which drove the greater number of the flies out. The tent was then firmly closed and beaten with sticks on the outside; when a sufficient time had elapsed to allow of the coast being clear the fire was thrown out, and the men crawled in, keeping the door closed, and by this means were able to get some rest. A new preventive against the attacks of the mosquitoes was discovered by one of the officers. In the middle of the night he got up, declaring that he could not sleep a wink, and after groping round found the bottle of mosquito oil, and after freely anointing himself, was enabled to get some rest. In the morning, when the party sat down to breakfast, a cry arose that someone had spilled the bottle of "Harvey sauce," and that it was impossible to manage the pork without it. Then it was discovered that the mosquito-afflicted individual had used the preparation in question, and that nothing remained but to eat the pork without the sauce, or use the mosquito oil as a substitute, which I need hardly say was not adopted.

I must not omit to mention the sand-fly. Although not so formidable in appearance as his cousins and his sisters and his aunts, being only about the size of a pin's head, was not to be despised I can assure you. I recollect seeing some of the men, who had just come in from working on the road, looking hot and dirty, strip off and take the water a short distance below the fall. How they did appear to enjoy it, to be sure, and then they came on shore and sat around, and then had another dip. It was great fun, but not altogether one-sided. Every time they came on shore the sand-flies laid low and "went" for them. They had not had a treat like this for some time, so they were not going to lose this opportunity. After awhile the men got inside their clothes and returned to camp for tea. Then commenced the fun. They were in a perfect fever. I knew what it was like, as I had been there myself—tearing and scratching themselves like demons, and well they might, as they resembled lobsters. Poor fellows, how they cursed that dip which a short time before they were extolling to the skies. But such is life. Annoyances they truly were to those concerned, but they created no lit-

the amusement to outsiders, and helped to break the monotony of the day's work. It certainly did with the bathers.

Everything was now going on well. The roads were in good order again, and the stores were going forward with great rapidity, and men were pushed on to the lake (Shebandowan) forty-eight miles. Everyone could see that it would not be very long now ere we took to the boats and really commenced the advance to Fort Garry. For once in their lives their fond hopes

endeavouring to rectify mistakes, and smooth down difficulties. And then when everything was thought to be ready and the order given to push off, the cry would be heard, "Where's my knapsack?" "I have not got my blankets?" etc., and then there was another delay and so on. Such a scene! But at last everything was ready, and away we went, others taking our places, and going through the same kind of thing, the men cheering as they pushed off to Fort Garry. The arms and accoutrements



IN CAMP. From an original sketch.

were realized. Detachment after detachment found themselves on the shores of the Shebandowan lake, or McNeill's Bay, called after Col. McNeill, V.C., now Sir John McNeill, Equerry to her Majesty, making all preparation to embark. As the stores were landed at Shebandowan they were housed in sheds erected for that purpose.

The boats which were both of carvel and clinker build were some 30 to 40 feet in length, and capable of carrying from four to five tons. The force for the advance was divided up into brigades—a brigade consisting of 50 men which was distributed in five boats, 10 men in a boat, with two guides, a bowman, and helmsman. After spending some days here in inspecting and repairing any of the boats that had met with accidents on the way up, and getting everything ready, the first order for the advance came. Such excitement as prevailed it would be difficult to convey an idea of. Here was a tiller missing from this boat, a rowlock that would not fit another, a sprung o'er, etc., etc. Staff officers ran about in all directions,

were packed in chests, a sufficient number being left out for the use of the guard, which mounted nightly.

The brigades were told off to their respective boats which they were to take through with them, and then came the loading of from 3 to 4 tons in each boat, consisting of pork in barrels and half barrels, biscuit and flour in barrels, tea in tins, ammunition, etc., and the arm chests, boat builder's tools, and all sorts of stuff for repairs, besides spare oars, sails, etc. All this was necessary, as we had to proceed through a country where nothing could be obtained, excepting wood and water, so every possible and probable contingency had to be thought of and provided for, and without doubt, we were far better equipped and prepared for our work than any other expedition. When this was all loaded, and it was no easy matter, the brigades were inspected, ordered to take their places, and then pushed off, others taking their places and going through the same routine. The captain in the leading boat, ensign in the centre, and the Lieutenant coming up in the rear, the

N.C.O.'s being equally distributed. The cars were manned by six men. The work of rowing was anything but easy at first, as the boats were laden down to the thwarts, thereby leaving no space whatever for the men's feet on the floor; they, therefore, had to stretch them out on the top of the load, and make footholds as best they could.

The first portage made was Kashaboia; some of the boats which left the Shebandowan late in the afternoon were not able to reach this portage (which is distant some 24 miles) the same day, so were compelled to camp on the way for the night. This portage is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile, and fairly easy ground. Then came the work of unloading and carrying over the stores and boats, which was on this wise:—Each boat being responsible for its own cargo, unloaded, and deposited its stores separately, in a position near where they landed, after which the crew carried them across the portage, and piled them in a like manner on the other side.

through two pieces of rope with eyelet holes in each end. Upon this, barrels of pork and biscuit, too weighty for one man's load, were placed, and which two men carried over with comparative ease. When the stores were all across, then came the boats. Whatever might be said as to the former, these tried the tempers of the men, as a 30-foot boat was something to tackle. The portage was laid with skids, that is trees were felled, and laid across the track, at intervals of about 3 feet, over which the boats were drawn. These skids were absolutely necessary for the boats, but were a great nuisance to the men while carrying the loads. A plan was therefore adopted of removing them after the boats were across, and laying them again, but it was found that this occupied too much time, and therefore was abandoned. When everything was ready, the word would be given, "All hands at the boats," and then such a pulling and tugging. This was hard work, more especially as it was not an uncommon oc-

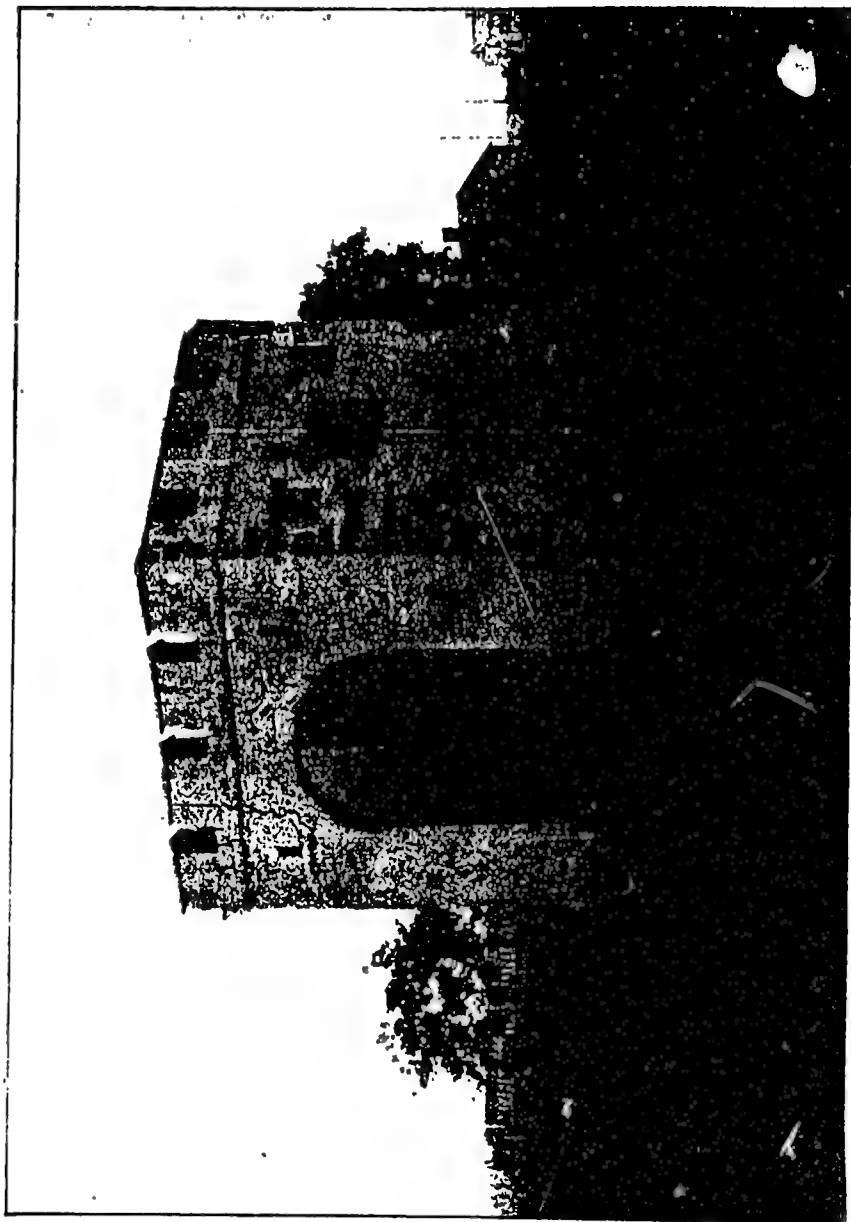


MAKING A CORDUROY ROAD. From a contemporary cut.

The mode of carrying the stores was as follows:—Tump straps and portage poles were provided for this service. The former consisted of a broad piece of leather, about the width of one's hand, and some 12 inches in length; to this was attached, on each end, two long pieces of leather tapering off say to 6 feet each. These were securely tied round the load, the broad piece being left clear, so as to be placed across the forehead, the load being carried on the shoulders.

The portage poles were about two inches in circumference, which passed

curence to have to haul them up a very steep incline of nearly 100 feet; but they would be got over at last, and then commenced the loading again. When this was completed, the brigade would embark for the next portage, provided of course that it was not too late, when they would camp for the night, leaving by daylight, this being the hour at which the move was daily made. By these hours you will readily understand that all hands were pretty well tired out, and glad to rest their aching limbs when night overtook them. For an example of the labour these men had to go through,

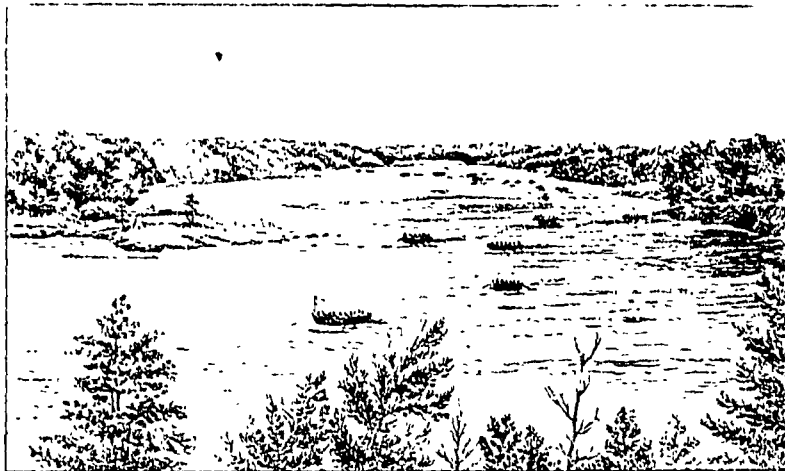


GATE OF FORT GARRY—ALL THAT NOW REMAINS

Photographed by George Ridout.

say a portage was a mile across (some were 3 miles), and say that each man had to make 13 trips before all the stores were over, he would have performed nearly 20 miles, and been heavily laden for 10 of them (some of the men carrying 300 or 400 pounds at a load), a good day's work it will be allowed. Before we were able to cross a portage a road had to be cut through, the leading brigades opening up and getting through as best they could, and those that followed continuing and improving the work.

mise both. Our usual custom was to make a thick bed of hemlock or spruce boughs, over which we spread our water-proof sheets, and then turned in. This is considered most healthy and by no means to be despised. On this occasion we found no little difficulty in getting the tents to stand, as the locality being solid rock it was impossible, even in the crevices, to drive pegs so as to hold. We therefore had to make the guy ropes fast to small boulders, which fairly answered the purpose. Occasionally an



Nos. 4 AND 5 ONTARIO RIFLES LEAVING FORT ALEXANDER, 18th AUGUST, 1870

The next portage made was the Height of Land. This portage is 1,200 feet long and about 1,000 feet above Lake Superior. Up to this time, this being the summit of the great water shed, we were working against the stream. We now commenced to descend. On leaving this portage we entered Lac de Mille Lac, the lake of the 1,000 lakes.

From this portage to the next—Baril Portage—is about 2½ miles. The scenery through these lakes is very fine. Exposures of white quartz were repeatedly seen on the islands, and not unfrequently were they taken for the sails of distant boats. The name of sail rocks given to them by the Indians is derived from this erroneous impression.

Deux Reviere Portage. At this portage we were treated to a tremendous storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by heavy rain, so that tents were pitched and everything made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. You must know that the tents were never pitched in fine weather, as it involved no end of extra labour and time, and we had long ere this learnt to econo-

mise both. Our usual custom was to make a thick bed of hemlock or spruce boughs, over which we spread our water-proof sheets, and then turned in. This is considered most healthy and by no means to be despised. On this occasion we found no little difficulty in getting the tents to stand, as the locality being solid rock it was impossible, even in the crevices, to drive pegs so as to hold. We therefore had to make the guy ropes fast to small boulders, which fairly answered the purpose. Occasionally an extra severe gust would draw several of the boulders away, and threaten to demolish our canvas house, but they were quickly replaced, and so we went through this cruel night, sleepless, wet, and cold, but morning came at last. The whole burst of golden sunlight, of singing birds, of pearly dewdrops, moving over the rushing, brimming river, and the morning was so bright, so glorious with its beauty and song, that we soon forgot our wetting and discomfort. Wood, such as it was, was collected, fires lighted, and clothes dried, and a hot cup of the Chinese beverage went straight to the spot, making us feel jolly once more and ready again for work. And after fighting with the slippery rocks, which made the foothold terribly hard, the stores are once more across. This without any exception was the most difficult portage we had to tackle. It is nearly three miles in length, and is mostly composed of barren rock, with very deep and dangerous declines and steep ascents. Up one of these a sort of ladder had to be erected, in order that the boats could be hauled up, which even then was

most arduous work, but 100 willing hands, anxious to get on, proved too much for even this horror, as it was called.

Leaving this portage we enter Sturgeon lake. This sheet of water for picturesque scenery surpasses anything we had yet seen. The numerous deep bays, backed by high wooded hills or rocks, smooth or rugged, its sudden contraction for a few yards into a river breadth, between large islands, and the equally abrupt breaking out into open stretches of water, offered a constant and most pleasing variety of scene. At the end of this lake are the Tanners Rapids, four in



STAFF-SERG. DOUGLAS  
BRIGADE MAJOR JAS. F. McLEOD  
MAJOR GRIFFITHS WAINSWRIGHT  
ADJ. CAPT. W. J. B. PARSONS  
(ONTARIO RIFLES)

From an 1870 photo.

number; the first of these cascades has a fall of some five feet and is quickly followed by the second, with a descent of seven feet, then follows a narrow reach of river of some three miles, ending at the third rapid, with a pitch of three feet, with another water stretch, and then comes the fourth and fifth rapid four miles distant from one another.

On arriving at these rapids we found six Indians waiting to take us down, our guides not being considered sufficiently conversant with the channel to undertake this duty. This being our first rapid, no little excitement prevailed as to the course to be pursued, as from its appearance we little thought that the undertaking would be accomplished with

safety. We soon received our instructions which were as follows:—All the men were to get out of the boats with the exception of four picked men, who were to take the oar, and the two guides, one at the bow, with his pole to direct the course, and the other at the stern, who was to steer by means of one of the sweeps shipped in a rowlock; this you can see gave him great leverage. The balance of the men walked around the portage. When all was in readiness the word was given, and they pushed off, every man with a firm hold of his oar, and his heart in his mouth, those on shore eagerly watching their comrades. As they near the broken water, the bowman, who has the post of honour, and who has been intently watching the current, hails his chum at the stern. Some words pass between them, at first quietly, and then excitedly; the helmsman takes it up, and calls upon the men to pull. "Pull hard, Nitchey," "Hellgo permiscog, Nitchey" (pull hard, boys), "Hellgo permiscog shumozishle (pull hard soldiers), and now they are in it; away they go tearing along, every man pulling for dear life, with his eyes starting out of his head. As they strike the roaring, seething waters the boat makes a bound, which fairly lifts them off their seats. Now they are in the middle of it, with the water dashing and foaming around them. Should they touch anything, a rock ahead, or a back eddy, God help them, is the thought which flashes through the minds of those on shore, but the guides know their work too well; they are now on the reach below, safely over, and with a shout, which is taken up by those on shore, land below the portage. I am certain there is not a man of the expedition who will ever forget this rapid. On landing we discovered a barrel stave stuck on a tree on which was written "No. 6, Company Ontario Rifles arrived here August 6, 1870, at 9.30 a.m., all well." This was the manner in which we kept up the communication with one another. We camped here for the night. The fires were soon kindled and the fragrant odour and the sizzling of the pork sharpened our already keen appetites, and it was not long ere we were attacking it in earnest. One would hardly realize how fond we grew of endless pig. At first we were very chary of eating the fat, taking care to pick out all the lean but after a short time this was almost discarded, and to see a man taking a chunk of fat in his hand, and the manner in which it disappeared, was sufficient proof of his weakness in this respect. We discovered ere this that it could be utilized other than appeasing the appetite. On one occasion when the mosquitoes were very troublesome and

the oil appeared to have very little effect, we noticed the guides rubbing their faces and hands with the pork fat, and on enquiring the reason for this performance, learnt that they always adopted this method as a preventive against these pests. We accordingly tried the experiment, and were delighted to find that it acted like a charm. So the oil was discarded. After supper, it being a beautiful night, we amused ourselves sitting around the fires and smoking the "Calumet," the peace pipe, the vocal genius of the party regaling us with some good songs, the guides sitting around the while, and grunting their approval. By degrees one by one rolled himself up in his blanket, and making a pillow of his knapsack, the camp was as quiet as it was full of life a short time

ago. During what he was going to do with this strange decoction, you can well imagine my horror when he said, "Bon, bon, good; me drink," and suiting the action to the word took a pull, and from the way he smacked his lips appeared to enjoy it hugely. I afterwards learnt that the Indians were very fond of this drink, which after a time produced intoxication, which I was not surprised at, I wonder it did not kill them at sight. I must not omit to mention that he kindly asked me to taste this wonderful beverage. Need I say I declined with thanks.

Our rations consisted of hard-tack, pork, and tea. The former was well named. One of the men said that with all the sailing he had had, it was the hardest tack he had even been on. He



FORT GARRY, ERECTED 1835, OCCUPIED BY ONTARIO RIFLES, SEPTEMBER, 1870  
The black spot shows where Scott was shot.

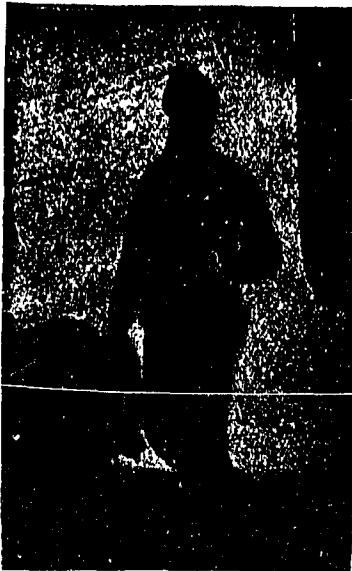
before, the sentry on his lonely beat watching over his comrades.

The Indian, as I fancy you are aware, has more than an ordinary love of stimulants which they call "fire-water." On one occasion I gave Baptiste a bottle of a quack medicine recommended for rheumatism and as a panacea for all ills. I came upon him afterwards when he was apparently taking a great interest over some preparation which he was making over the fire, in which I discovered my "Pain Killer" lent no small part. He had a small pannikin which I found contained tea, tobacco, and the contents of my bottle, and which he kept stirring with a stick for some time, when he strained the liquid through a musquito net into a bottle. My curiosity by this time was fully aroused, and on en-

said he was certain it had been made at the time of the Peninsular war, and put him in mind of the story of a belated traveller who struck a railroad restaurant out west, who, being hungry, ordered something to eat. Among other things which was set before him was a pie. Now the traveller was fond of pie, but do all he could he found it so tough he had to give it up, and summoning the landlord, enquired what the dish was. "Pie, of course," replied the landlord, "What did you think it was?" "I don't know," replied the traveller. "What is it, but it is not pie." "Look here," said the landlord, now thoroughly angry, "I ought to know what a pie is. I made pies before you were born." "Yes," said the traveller, "and that is one of them."



With the exception of a small supply carried by the medical officer, in case of illness, no stimulant was allowed to accompany the expedition, and I think I am correct in saying that this was the only British military expedition on record where intoxicating liquor did not form a part of the daily rations. A great many thought that Colonel Wolseley had made a great mistake in forbidding their use, and not allowing a supply so that each man could have, say one glass a day. Colonel Wolseley in his work entitled "The Soldier's Pocket Book for Field Service, 1863," gave as his opinion that men could perform as hard labour and stand as much fatigue without the usual



MAJOR A. G. IRVINE, QUEBEC BATTALION  
From an 1870 photo.

rations of rum, as with it. He says:—"Give your men as little spirits as possible; tea or coffee are much more sustaining and more portable. The old superstition that 'grog' is a good thing for men before, during, or after a march, has been proved by the scientific men of all nations to be a fallacy, and is only still maintained by men who mistake the cravings arising solely from habit for the promptings of nature herself. It is the con honest thing to see men, even when travelling at home, taking brandy 'to keep them warm.' It is an ascertained fact that alcohol of any sort reduces, instead of increases the temperature of the body. The use of spirits in cold weather has been well tested during the various polar expeditions, the medical officers

of which all condemn it as a preventive against cold. No men require greater endurance than the trappers of British North America, and none do a greater amount of hard physical work than the voyageurs and lumbermen there; none of whom drink spirits when in the woods; tea being their constant beverage. Our armies in Kaffraria had no spirits issued to them as a rule, and no army in the field was ever more healthy (if any other was as free from sickness). Our experience in the Indian mutiny also carries out this theory; for months in some places our men were entirely cut off from all liquor, and they were healthier than when subsequently it was issued to them as a ration. By increasing the allowance of tea, and abolishing that of rum, you diminish the supplies to be carried, to a great extent, whilst you add to the health and efficiency of your men; their discipline will improve as their moral tone is raised, engendering a manly cheerfulness that spirit-drinking armies know nothing of."

The proof of the foregoing was fully exemplified in this expedition, and its success was in a great measure due to the strict temperance discipline of the men. From the time the expedition left Thunder Bay, 1st July, until they arrived at Fort Garry, August 24th, not a drop of liquor was partaken and not a single man seriously ill, and crime unknown. Looking at the country the troops had to go through, and the numerous and dangerous rapids to be run, it was necessary that every man should have a clear head, and know exactly what he was about. This could not have been accomplished had stimulants been supplied, and consequently the miraculous escapes from accident can be put down to the strict temperance life of all. Officers as well as men had to be temperate. Cutting down the baggage to 90 lbs. would not allow officers to carry such luxuries as liquor. Many were the devices resorted to so as to obtain "a grog," but the doctor could not be caught. Apropos of this he told the following story:—"A clergyman, who was a noted temperance lecturer, not feeling very well, sent for his medical man, who, on diagnosing the case, found that his patient had rather overworked himself, and recommended rest and a stimulant. To the first part of the prescription his patient readily assented, but was in a quandary how to manage the latter part. He was known and respected for having very strong views in the matter of the use of stimulants, and living a bachelor under the care of an old trusty servant, he could not see how this part of his medical man's advice was to be carried out without escaping observa-

tion. The doctor soon got over this difficulty by suggesting that his patient should secret a bottle of whiskey and a little sugar in his bed-room, and when his housekeeper brought up his shaving water in the morning, he should brew himself "a horn," and in a short time he would be himself again. After the lapse of some days the doctor called to see how the reverend gentleman was getting on, and was informed by the housekeeper that he was out. "How is his health? Is he feeling stronger?" enquired the doctor. "Well, he seems pretty strong," was the reply, "but he acts very queer, doctor. I never saw him that way all the years I have been with him. I am sure he is losing his head." "Why, that is very strange," said the doctor. "He was certainly quite sane



SURGEON NEILSON, QUEBEC RIFLES  
From an 1870 photo.

when I prescribed for him. What are his symptoms? What does he do?" "Well, doctor, he is shaving all day long. He keeps calling for hot water early in the morning, and then after breakfast, and so on through the day. Oh, doctor, I am certain he is crazy."

#### FORT FRANCIS.

At Fort Francis where the 2nd section began, a garrison composed of "G" Company Ontario Rifles, under the command of Captain Scott, with Lieut. D. A. MacDonald and Ensign J. J. Bell as subalterns, was left for the protection of the hospital, bakery and depot of

stores established there, and to insure our communication being kept open.

On leaving Fort Francis we descended the Rainy river, which is about 65 miles in length with a current of three miles an hour. After passing the Manitou and the Long Sault rapids, and in order to continue the journey at night and not tax the men too heavily, we tried the plan of drifting down the river, lashing the boats together by twos; watches were established, one man remaining up in each boat to take charge and steer, the others sleeping as best they could. This proved very satisfactory.

#### LAKE OF THE WOODS.

We next entered the Lake of the Woods, which is some 75 miles long, and about the same in width. The scenery among the islands is of the most lovely description, island succeeding island in countless numbers. This made the passage most difficult, many of the brigades losing their way, and with no little difficulty finding the right course again. About four miles from land the water became tinged with green, deriving its colour from a minute vegetable growth, which increased as we progressed, until it gave the appearance to the lake of a vast expanse of dirty, green mud. This, I believe, is caused by the extraordinary temperature of the water, which is about 75 degrees Fahrenheit. It was impossible to drink it without first boiling and filtering, and it was not too good at that. At the north-west portion of the lake, which is known as the north-west angle a portage of 100 miles leading to Fort Garry was under construction by a Mr. Snow, P.L.S. It was the original intention to abandon the boats here and make the march into Fort Garry, which would have avoided the necessity of the journey by the Winnipeg river, thereby minimizing the distance by some 150 miles, besides escaping the dangerous rapids and waterfalls of this river. This idea, however, had to be abandoned, owing to the road not being completed. We were therefore compelled to continue the journey by water, which was no small disappointment. Colonel Wolseley, nevertheless, caused it to be impressed upon Riel that the advance would be made from this point, as he had been advised that Riel intended attacking the force on this road. This ruse we afterwards heard, was successful, as Riel was not aware, up to a short time before the march was made into Fort Garry, that we had gone round by the Winnipeg river, and consequently was not prepared for an attack from that quarter. I might mention here that the force from front to rear covered the route for 150 miles.

The numerous rapids and falls of the Winnipeg river, coming close one after the other, makes it most difficult of navigation, and renders the greatest caution necessary; but with experienced guides, ably assisted by our Iroquois voyageurs, we managed to descend in safety. At Slave Falls we were overtaken by Colonel Wolseley, who had lost his way in the Lake of the Woods, and was in consequence detained two days. We were treated here to one of the finest bits of scenery on the route. These falls owe their name to a tragedy enacted there long years since by the Chipewaws, who had captured two Sioux,

de Bonnet, Grand Bonnet, Roche de Bonnet, White Mud Falls, first and second Silver Falls, and Pine Portage. Besides these numerous portages many rapids were run. Pine Portage being the last, the boats were loaded early in the day ready to start for Fort Alexander, with no portages intervening. Only those who have been through this trip can properly appreciate the feeling of relief that came over us as we stood safe and sound on the west side of Pine Portage, and with a "Hip hip hurrah!" we pushed off for Fort Alexander, where we arrived on the 17th of August.

Fort Alexander is very prettily situated,



WRITING HOME. From a contemporary cut.

their hereditary enemies, and after keeping them in slavery for many years, and having no further use for them, bound these poor wretches in a canoe, back to back, and sent them over the falls, where they were dashed to pieces. The following will give an idea of the number of portages made descending this great river: Rat Portage, Grand Discharge, Yellow Mud Falls, Pine Portage, De Lisle, Chute-a-Jocho, First Point de Bois; second, ditto; third, ditto; Slave Falls, Les Barrier. The seven portages. The work here was very arduous, as the boats were being continually unloaded, taken, out of the water, dragged a few yards, and put back again and reloaded. After these portages came the first and second Gala

ed, standing on a high bank on the left side of the river, and some two miles from Lake Winnipeg. It is a larger and more important post than Fort Francis, and is far more imposing in appearance. Mr. Barney Ross, the chief factor of the post, most kindly entertained us at his house, and we all had the pleasure of enjoying the first meal of fresh meat since we left Prince Arthur's Landing.

The remainder of the journey was performed in a somewhat similar manner; up at daylight and to bed tired out. Tents were never pitched, and often we were rudely awakened by a thunderstorm and drenched to the skin.

On arriving at the Stone Fort, or Lower Fort Garry, distant some twenty

miles from Winnipeg, the loyal inhabitants received us with the greatest enthusiasm, which extended all along the river, the people turning out en masse, cheering and waving handkerchiefs. They ran down to the river-side grasping our fellows by the hand, and with tears in their eyes exclaimed, "God bless you, men; God bless you," at the same time proffering all sorts of provisions and refreshments, which were gratefully partaken of. Flags were flying from every elevation, guns were fired, and the bells of the cathedral rang out a jovious peal upon the morning air, a welcome evidence that after so many

Order having been restored, and after the militia had been established in the quarters assigned to them—the Ontario battalion at Fort Garry, and the Quebec battalion at the Stone Fort or Lower Fort Garry—the Imperial troops made preparations for their return to Canada, and by the 3rd of September they had all taken their departure, returning by the water route, with the exception of Captain Buller's company of the 60th Rifles, which marched by the Snow road to the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods, some ninety miles, where they took to the boats again. It was by no means easy work performing this



NO. 5 COMPANY ONTARIO RIFLES SHOOTING TANNER'S RAPIDS, MALINE RIVER, 6th AUGUST, 1870. From an original sketch.

hundred miles of weary travel through the wilderness we had at last come in contact with civilization.

Thus, after crossing forty-seven portages and pulling and sailing some 600 miles, we arrived at Fort Garry on the 24th August, taking three months to make the journey which is now accomplished in two and a half days. The enemy having fled at our approach, there was nothing left to do but to formally take possession of the fort. The flag of the Provisional Government which was then flying was hauled down and the British ensign hoisted, a royal salute fired, and three cheers given for the Queen, cheers such only as Britishers can give, which resounded through the fort, proclaiming that the beneficent rule of her Majesty was now unquestioned, and that the country was once more under constitutional authority.

march, in consequence of the very imperfect state of the road, a portion of which had only just been completed.

As each brigade pushed off they were heartily cheered by the Ontario men, who lined the bank, while the band played "Auld Lang Syne."

Before Col. Wolseley's departure he issued the following valedictory, which was read to the men on parade on Sunday, the 11th September:—

#### COL. WOLSELEY'S VALEDICTORY.

To the Soldiers of the Militia Regiments of the Red River Expeditionary Force:

"In saying 'good-bye' I beg that each and all of you will accept my grateful recognition of your valuable services, and my best thanks for the zeal you have displayed in carrying out my orders.



LAKE OF THE WOODS—NEAR RAT PORTAGE

Photographed by George Ridout.

"I congratulate you upon the success of our expedition, which has secured to this country a peaceable solution of its late troubles. The credit of this success is due to the gallant soldiers I had at my back; upon you fell the labour of carrying the boats and heavy loads, a labour in which officers and men vied with each other as to who should do the most. Nothing but that 'pluck' for which British soldiers, whether born in the colonies or in the Mother Country, are celebrated, could have carried you so successfully through the arduous advance upon this place.



SURGEON CODD, ONTARIO RIFLES  
From an 1870 photo.

"From Prince Arthur's Landing to Fort Garry is over 600 miles through a wilderness of forest and water, where no supplies of any description are obtainable. You had to carry on your backs a vast amount of supplies over no less than forty-seven portages, making a total distance of seven miles, a feat unparalleled in our military annals. You have descended a great river esteemed so dangerous from its rapids, falls, and whirlpools that none but experienced voyageurs attempt its navigation. Your cheerful obedience to orders has enabled you, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to accomplish your task without any accident.

"Although the banditti who had been oppressing this people fled at your approach, without giving you an opportunity of proving how men capable of such labour could fight, you have deserved as

well of your country as if you had won a battle.

"Some evil-designing men have endeavoured to make a section of this people believe that they have much to dread at your hands. I beg of you to give them the lie to such a foul aspersion upon your character as Canadian soldiers by comporting yourselves as you have hitherto done.

"I desire to warn you especially against mixing yourselves up in party affairs here: to be present at any political meeting, or to join in any political procession, is strictly against her Majesty's regulations—a fact which I am sure you have only to know to be guided by.

"I can say without flattery, that although I have served with many armies in the field, I have never been associated with a better set of men. You have much yet to learn of your profession but you have only to attend as carefully to the orders of the officer to whose command I now hand you over as you have to mine to become shortly a force second to none in her Majesty's service.

"My best thanks are due especially to Lieut.-Colonels Jarvis and Cassault for the punctuality with which they have executed their orders.

"I bid you all good-bye with no feigned regret; I shall ever look back with pleasure and pride to having commanded you, and although separated from you by thousands of miles, I shall never cease to take an earnest interest in your welfare."

(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY.

Com'r Red River Expeditionary Force  
Fort Garry, Sept. 9, 1870.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge also issued the following order:—  
General order issued to the troops by his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief:—

"1. The expedition to the Red river having completed the service on which it has been employed, His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief desires to express to Lieutenant-General the Hon. James Lindsay, who organized the force, and to Colonel Wolseley and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who composed it, his entire satisfaction at the manner in which they have performed the arduous duties which were entailed upon them by a journey of above 600 miles through a country destitute of supplies, and which necessitated the heavy labour of carrying boats, guns, ammunition stores, and provisions over no less than forty-seven portages.

"2. Seldom have troops been called upon to endure more continuous labour and fatigue, and never have officers and

men behaved better or worked more cheerfully during inclement weather and its consequent hardships, and the successful result of the expedition shows the perfect discipline and spirit of all engaged in it.

"3. His Royal Highness, while thanking the regular troops for their exertions, wishes especially to place on record his full appreciation of the services rendered by the militia of the Dominion of Canada who were associated with them throughout these trying duties.

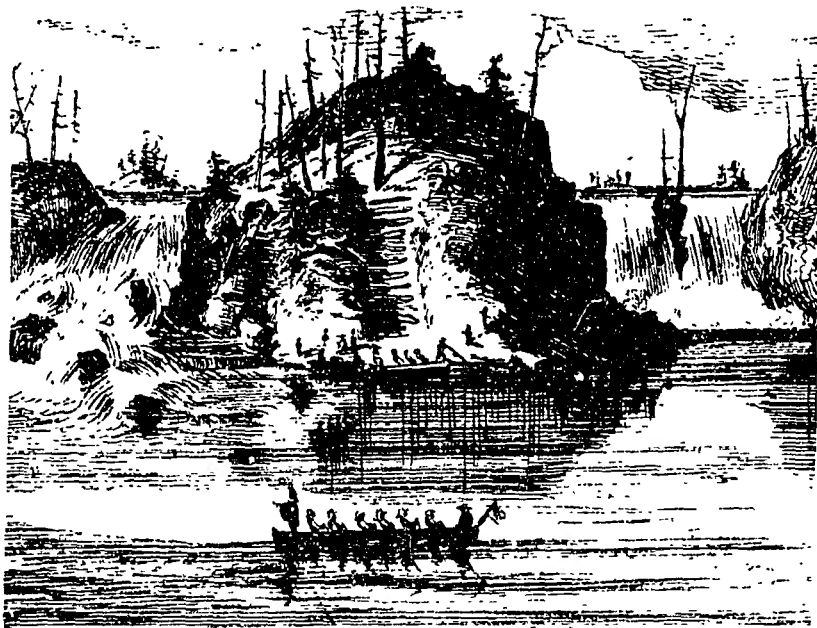
"(Signed) R. AIREY.

"Adjutant-General.

"Horse Guards, November, 1870."

reason to be satisfied with the men who now represent them at Fort Garry. I can give them no higher praise than by saying that the national honour is safe in their keeping. They possess in an eminent degree a nobility of sentiment which will always prompt them to volunteer for any service necessary for a vindication of that honour, and they inherit from their ancestors the courage and endurance which will ever carry them through any expedition they undertake with credit to themselves and honour to their country."

Colonel Wolseley was made a full colonel and a Knight Commander of the



ISLAND PORTAGE

#### COLONEL WOLSELEY

On Colonel Wolseley's return he was tendered public banquets, both at Toronto and Montreal, but was only able to accept the hospitality of the last-named city. The citizens of Toronto were much disappointed in not being able to show their great appreciation of the gallant Colonel's services, but time would not permit his remaining over. A congratulatory address, however, was forwarded to him at the dinner at Montreal, which was a magnificent affair, and in his reply to the Toronto address he said, among other things:—"I shall ever look back with pride at having commanded the first military operation undertaken by the Dominion. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec have every

Order of St. Michael and St. George Colonels Jarvis, Cassault, and Brigade-Major McLeod were made Companions of St. Michael and St. George, and each officer and man received a free grant of 160 acres of land.

#### NOTES.

In Fort Garry everything was done to make the battalion comfortable, the men occupying the large buildings and the officers the centre stone building facing the main entrance.

For the amusement of the men during the long winter a theatre was erected in an unused building, where many good performances were held, bringing out the latent talent of the men, and which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially the settlers.

An officers' mess was soon established, though catering was no easy matter, for, with the exception of game, provisions were very scarce. The mode of delivery of milk was certainly a novelty, being in large frozen cakes, and sold by the pound.

The cold during the winter months was intense, the thermometer registering at times 30 and 40 degrees below zero. The gentries were provided with buffalo coats and leggings, and during the extreme cold were relieved every hour.

Early in the spring of 1871 a reduction of the force took place, only two companies, composed of four officers and eighty-five men, under the command of Major A. G. Irvine (with Capts. Allan Macdonald and William M. Herchmer in command of the companies respectively), being retained for a further period of service, and were stationed at Upper Fort Garry.

A number took their discharge at Fort Garry and settled in the province. The remainder returned to Ontario, leaving early in June, and arrived at Toronto on the 14th of July, where they received their discharge, and with many hearty hand-shakings and good wishes returned to their respective homes.

It may be interesting to know that Fort Garry at several times in the past has been occupied by British troops. In 1846 a force of some 400 men, composed of detachments from the 6th Foot, Royal Artillery, and Engineers, under the command of Colonel Crofton, were sent out, returning to England in 1848. They were succeeded in the same year by pensioners, under the command of Colonel

Caldwell, who remained for some time as Governor. Again, in 1854, a force composed of the Royal Canadian Rifles once more occupied the fort until 1861.

It is a proof of the high estimation which Colonel Wolseley had for the Canadian force, that on assuming the command of the Nile expedition in 1884-5, he established a corps of voyageurs composed entirely of Canadians, under the command of the late Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Denison, and having as paymaster and quartermaster the late Lieut.-Col. William N. Kennedy, commanding 90th Winnipeg Battalion of Rifles. The sad death of Colonel Kennedy shortly after his return to England, on his way home, precluded a formal recognition by her Majesty of his distinguished services, though every mark of respect was shown by his being accorded a civil and military funeral, at which her Majesty and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales were represented.

Colonel Denison was duly honoured by being invested with the Order of the Companion of St. Michael and St. George, the Egyptian medal, 1884-5, and the Khedive's bronze star. His lamented death and the respect paid to his memory at his impressive funeral will be fresh in the recollection of all readers.

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I understand that a medal for this expedition was recommended. Perhaps like the Peninsular War Medal, 1793-1814, and the Naval General Service Medal, 1793-1840, which were not issued until 1947, the members of the Red River Expeditionary Force may yet be honoured.